

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, line 4 – page 1, line 24 with the following paragraphs:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to electric plug-in contacts for plug-in connectors in electric DC wiring systems operated at a nominal voltage, in which electric arcing may occur, and to a semi-finished product for the production of such plugs as defined in the preamble of Claim 1. Especially, the invention relates to plug-in contacts intended for use in automobiles.

Description of Related Art

Today, passenger cars generally are equipped with electric wiring systems that operate at a nominal voltage of 14 V. Plug-in contacts in plug-in connectors intended for that use usually consist of a main body, made from copper, a copper-based alloy such as CuNiSi or stainless steel which provide the required electric conductivity and spring properties so ensure safe contact-making by the plug-in connector. In order to guarantee stable electric contact-making properties even in a corrosive atmosphere, it has been known to provide the main bodies of the plug-in contacts, or their semi-fished products, with a hard gold layer applied by galvanic deposition, or with a pure silver layer or a tin layer. Tin and tin alloy layers are frequently applied also using a fire-tinning process. Given the marginal conditions required heretofore (use in air at a nominal voltage of 14 V and a maximum ambient temperature of 150° Celsius - in which connection it must be considered that the temperature of the plug-in connector being heated by the current may further rise by 30° Celsius above ambient temperature) it has been possible in this way to achieve a sufficient degree of wear resistance when plugging-in and pulling off the male and female plug-in contacts.

ELECTRICAL PLUG CONTACTS AND A SEMI-FINISHED PRODUCT FOR THE PRODUCTION
THEREOF

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Please add the following paragraph at page 3, line 11:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please add the following paragraphs at page 4, line 10:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

Figure 1 is a cross-section through a strip-like semi-finished product – greatly enlarged and not true to scale – illustrating the structure of a semi-finished product.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION